

A Valiant Life

#Chapter 1 - Read A Valiant Life Chapter 1

Chapter 1: I'll bring you to fly with me

"Brother, after this goodbye, I don't know when we'll meet again. I only regret not having met you earlier. We've journeyed together for just 3 months, but our bond is...is..."

"Hey, don't get so emotional. I can't understand what you're saying."

Lin Fan looked at the brother standing before him and couldn't help but sigh. This was the third time that this had happened. They were all passionate and ambitious in the beginning, but after a few setbacks, they didn't have the strength to continue.

"Brother Lin, after I leave, you will still be constantly chased by the city's enforcement officers. I can't bear the thought of it. This is all that I own, please accept it as my regards."

The youngster handed Lin Fan a bundle wrapped in cloth, then embraced him, "Brother, as long as time stands, we are bound to meet again. I have to go."

clattering sounds

Upon saying this, the youngster pushed the door open and walked away, full of resolution.

"Xiao Feng, where are you heading to?" Lin Fan stood by the door, staring at the youngster's back view.

"Dongguan."

"What are you going to do there? The economy is in a slump over there!"

Due to a crackdown, many workers had left the area. Numerous industries suffered financially. If one were to compare it to Shanghai, it was in a worse condition.

"To sell my body," Xiao Feng said without looking back. He had already made up his mind.

"You're a man!" Lin Fan yelled. Has Xiao Feng gone crazy? What does a man have to sell? His hairy body?

"It's precisely because of the fact that I'm a man, and because of the Great Depression, that there are business opportunities there. Brother, this is where we part. Wait till I become rich, then I'll be back to bring you to fly with me."

Slowly...gradually...his silhouette disappeared from Lin Fan's view.

"Ah, this man is alone once again. That can't be right, Xiao Feng didn't even leave his number. When he becomes rich, how is he going to bring me to fly with him?" Lin Fan hastily ran after him, but Xiao Feng's silhouette was nowhere to be seen. He could only shake his head and return to his \$400-a-month rented house.

Looking at his tiny house, Lin Fan felt miserable. If he had known that things would turn out this way, he would have never entered that diploma mill. Even if he just came out to learn a skill after graduating from high school, he would still be living a better life than he was now, selling scallion pancakes.

"Forget it, at least Xiao Feng had the conscience to leave a note behind. Let's see what we have."

...

"F*ck your second uncle."

All of a sudden, piercing sounds of rage-filled cursing emitted from the tiny rented house.

Over 10 magazines were placed in front of Lin Fan, along with several IOUs written on blank paper. Next to these IOUs, was a letter, which, judging by appearance, had already been passed through several hands.

Dearest Brother Lin.

"Brother Lin, when you read this letter, I'm afraid I would have just left, but you don't need to try to convince me to stay. I'm already firm on going to Dongguan. Shanghai hasn't been good to me for 3 months. I have no fond memories of the place. Quietly, I will take my leave, as quietly as I came here. Gently, I will flick my sleeves, and not even a wisp of cloud will I bring away. These IOUs are for you, but worry not, I am not someone who forgets his debts. Wait till I become a big shot in Dongguan, then I'll repay the debt a thousand times, ten thousand times over."

"These magazines are my favorites. Today, I'm giving them to you, brother. See you again."

...

Staring at the pile of magazines, Lin Fan was momentarily stunned.

“This fella eats my food, borrows my money, and in the end, all he leaves me is a pile of magazines! This f*cking Xiao Feng better not let me find him! Forget about it, at least I have something to look at. Let’s see what we have here.”

Wow!

He flipped page after page.

“Not bad, these are beautiful thighs.”

“Damn, this woman is way too gorgeous. However, it is too immoral for such a gorgeous woman to appear on this kind of magazine.”

As time went by, minute by minute, second by second, the magazines were read by Lin Fan. One by one, they were dumped to the side until only one magazine was left.

“What’s going on? Such an alluring cover page but not a single thing on the inside. And it’s so thick too! This must be some sort of scam.” Every one of the previous magazines had left a positive impression, but the final magazine put Lin Fan in a bad mood.

Why did they put such an attractive woman on the cover page?

To cheat the readers, draw their attention, and then drive them into a frenzy?

Scums!

Lin Fan lay on his bed, clutching the magazine in his hands as he stared at the lady on the cover page. This lady was indeed, extremely attractive.

Gradually, Lin Fan’s eyelids shut, and he dozed off.

ring ring

His old iPhone 4 rang suddenly, causing Lin Fan to be startled. He instantly opened his eyes.

“It’s time to open the stall! It’s already 4.30 pm. The primary school students will be dismissed soon. If we’re late, there won’t be any space left!”

After graduating from the diploma mill, Lin Fan came to Shanghai full of ambition and ready to take on the world. However, cruel reality hit him hard.

In the two years after he graduated, Lin Fan had been to numerous companies and took on many jobs, but as if due to bad luck, each job never lasted long.

At the first company, the boss ran away with his mistress. His wife sold the company away, along with the 2 months of pay that they owed Lin Fan.

At his second job, Lin Fan was very contented. The couple who owned the business was good to him, but one day, they called Lin Fan into the office and sneakily told him about an investment opportunity.

Invest \$3,000 and get \$500 monthly returns. The more you invest, the more returns you receive.

When Lin Fan first heard about it, he was ecstatic. It appeared to be a very good deal, and even the boss couple were invested in it, so Lin Fan happily invested too and waited for the returns to come flying in.

However, two months later, Lin Fan realized that something wasn't right. He had been cheated.

When Lin Fan decided to tell his boss that he wanted to back out and a refund, he realized that his boss had invested his entire fortune into the business and was completely broke.

That was when Lin Fan understood one of life's principles.

Educational background was not an indication of IQ. He had lost 2 months of wages and was not about to continue being cheated.

Eventually, Lin Fan used his remaining savings to start a small vendor business, selling scallion pancakes.

In terms of money, it was actually a pretty profitable business selling pancakes for six dollars each. Occasionally, when the customers spend more extravagantly, earnings were even higher.

The only problem was the city's enforcement officers, who would come and chase Lin Fan away. Sometimes, the stall would get confiscated, and it would cost him several hundreds to get it back. It was a very costly setback.

Since Xiao Feng had left, Lin Fan only had himself to rely on from this day onwards.

"Huh? Why is this magazine still stuck to my hand?" As Lin Fan was about to put on his shoes, he realized that the magazine was sticking to his hand and would not come off.

"Could that f*cking Xiao Feng have put glue on it?"

Just as Lin Fan was about to rip the magazine off his arm, a metallic sound rang in his ear and the magazine suddenly vanished.

“Ding! Binding requirements fulfilled: Not letting go of the blank magazine for 6 hours.”

“Activating history’s strongest encyclopedia.”

“Due to the host being the first user, unsealing content related to the host’s current occupation.”

“Page one: Godly Scallion Pancakes.”

“Godly Scallion Pancakes.”

“Grade: Godly.

“Tastiness evaluation: Unforgettable culinary delicacy.”

“Task: Attain a small amount of reputation, no time limit.”

“Task completion: Randomly reveal page two of encyclopedic knowledge. Reward: 10 encyclopedic points.

At this moment, Lin Fan was completely dumbfounded. He stood motionlessly for 10 minutes, with no clue about what had just happened.

Lin Fan pinched his face, followed by his thigh. Everything felt real.

“Encyclopedia?”

Lin Fan recalled what had happened. With a sudden jolt, a magazine with the thickness of a mountain’s height appeared within his mind

The cover page no longer displayed the beautiful woman. Instead, a large golden word was printed in the middle of the page: “Encyclopedia”

Wow!

He flipped the cover page over. The first page was no longer blank but was filled with words and illustrations: Vivid and lifelike images of scallion pancakes, with lines of densely packed words printed in gold.

“Is this a dream or something? Forget it, even if this is a dream, I still have to go and sell my scallion pancakes!”

Still in a daze, Lin Fan left the compound while pushing his cart along with him.

“Lil’ Fan, you’re so late today!”

As he was leaving the compound, a group of middle-aged women was preparing to leave their homes and fetch their kids.

“Mmm.”

Lin Fan nodded his head and continued pushing his cart away from the compound.

“Hey, Lil’ Fan seems distracted. Could he have just broken up?”

“Breaking up is a good thing. I heard your daughter is already 30. She’s getting old, isn’t this the perfect timing?”

“What nonsense are you spouting? My daughter may be already 30, but even so, she wouldn’t go for this impoverished brat. Go off and fetch your kid! My daughter has plenty of men pursuing her!

“Hahahaha...”

The devilish laughter from the group of women resounded as they left.

Chapter 2: A Failing Business

At roughly 4 pm each day, Red Star Primary School’s gates would usher in a crowd of parents, and within this crowd, hawkers would start getting busy.

There would be hawkers selling barbecued food, hawkers selling fruits, and of course, there would be Lin Fan selling his scallion pancakes. In fact, he wasn’t the only one selling scallion pancakes. The competitive pressure was immense.

Being a young man, Lin Fan was naturally not as brazen as the elderly aunts there and was always unable to seize the best spots because of this.

“Hey young man, what’s with you today? Is there something wrong with your eyes? You’ve blinked over a hundred times in the past 10 minutes!”

A particularly conspicuous, mustached middle-aged man, asked. He was dressed in a robe, had both hands hidden in his sleeves and he stood next to Lin Fan’s worn out cart, gazing at him.

“Wow! You really are Diviner Tian! You can even tell how many times I blink!.”

Lin Fan’s mind was in a mess. He wondered if he had been possessed. Why were things appearing in his head? And an abnormally thick Encyclopedia too.

“That’s just a nickname. Since school hasn’t ended yet, why don’t I read your fortune for you for \$5? I, Tian, am capable of seeing into the future, past, and present. No matter who or what it is, with one glance, I can tell you your fortune.”

Diviner Tian sat atop the small bench, with his head twisted to one side. He was trying to trick Lin Fan into believing him. Being in this business, he had no choice but to bluff his customers. How else would he earn his living?

“Come on, if you really are so great, you would have become successful long ago. Why would you still be here, squatting in front of a primary school like me? However, you must be really proud of yourself, Tian Han Ming, to do this in front of a primary school, teaching these kids to believe in your trickery.”

“Please don’t call me that from now on. Call me Diviner Tian. I cannot reveal heaven’s mysteries. However, the spot I am standing on right now is a sacred piece of land, where businesses can flourish easily. If you’re interested, give me a piece of scallion pancake and it’s yours.”

Lin Fan gave a small chuckle. He had nothing more to say. When Lin Fan had first started hawking, business wasn’t going smoothly and this Tian Han Ming tricked him into one of his scams.

Ever since then, Lin Fan saw through his tricks. To even scam a poor man like him, did this Tian Han Ming even have a conscience?

“Big Sister, please slow down, you have to take a look at this.”

At this moment, a fifty-something-year-old Aunty was passing by. Diviner Tian suddenly called out to her. His fingers started to move as if he was counting something. And the more he counted, the more his expression turned into that of shock, almost as if something grave had happened.

Looking at this scene, Lin Fan let out another cold laugh. “There goes another victim.” he thought. Even so, each time this happened, Lin Fan couldn’t help but be filled with envy.

To get paid just for spouting some nonsense, it seemed like too good of a deal.

This Aunty seemed like someone who believed in fortune-telling, as she stopped in her tracks, with a look of surprise on her face, “Master, what’s the matter? Is there something wrong?”

“Your eyes tell me that a major incident may happen to you in the near future.” Diviner Tian said, raising his tone as if what he was saying really was real.

The primary school students still hadn't been dismissed. Lin Fan just stood there, watching how Tian Han Ming was tricking his victim and couldn't help but feel a slight admiration for him. With each lie he told, there would be a different reason behind it, and each of them actually made sense.

5 minutes later...

The aunty nodded her head worriedly, then handed \$10 over to Tian Han Ming. As she left, she continued to thank him profusely, as if he had just saved her life.

"How's that?" Diviner Tian waved the money in his hand proudly before stuffing it into his waist pocket.

"Old cocky b*stard..."

Even as Lin Fan said that, his heart was still filled with envy.

Ever since starting this scallion pancake business, times had been tough, especially since there were several other scallion pancake hawkers next to him. With regards to skill and quality of the pancakes, Lin Fan could not compete against the others. Earning just \$100 in a day was considered lucky.

Moreover, whenever the city's enforcement officers came to do their rounds, the entire day's revenue would be gone.

Ding dong! Ding dong!

The sound of the school bells ringing echoed through the city. Lin Fan took a deep breath and placed all his equipment and ingredients in position as he awaited the incoming parents.

What troubled Lin Fan the most were the stalls stationed in front of him. The owners would compete viciously for sales and when the parents reached his own stall, very few would even care to look at his pancakes.

In a place like Shanghai, some parents wouldn't allow their children to eat these snacks sold on the streets, saying that the food wasn't clean or hygienic. Therefore, the number of patrons was very limited.

The sound of chatter began to fill the place as a crowd moved towards the school gates.

The street hawkers started to get busy as well, including Diviner Tian.

Yet, there was no one in Lin Fan's vicinity. Nobody cared to patronize his stall. Several parents walked past the front of his stall, already holding scallion pancakes in their hands, bought from other stalls.

Lin Fan tip-toed and saw that the other scallion pancake stalls already had snaking queues. The hawkers were all terribly busy.

I can't just sit here. All of my hard work put into the preparations would be wasted! Lin Fan was getting desperate. Without a second thought, he started to scream out loud.

"Large and fragrant scallion pancakes for sale! Add ham for only \$6! Add bacon for \$7! Come and take a look!"

However, even after screaming for half a day, not a single customer came. Lin Fan was crushed. Despite all his efforts, nobody wanted to patronize him.

Upon hearing Lin Fan's shouting, the aunty who was manning the stall opposite his sniggered with disdain. As she made her scallion pancakes, she said to her customer: "That brat makes horrible-tasting scallion pancakes, that's why nobody buys from him. Some people don't know how bad they are and give it a try, but nobody buys from him twice."

The parents who were standing around all nodded in agreement. Apparently, some of the parents had tried the pancakes before, and the taste was indeed horrible.

Diviner Tian, after reading several parents' fortunes, looked over at Lin Fan. Seeing Lin Fan's miserable state, he broke into a chuckle, "Hey kid, why don't I take you under my wing. I'll cover your meals and accommodation, and I can guarantee you a brighter future than what you'd have if you carry on selling scallion pancakes. Once you finish your apprenticeship, I'll hand over this precious spot of land to you and you'll become rich."

"You can keep it, my spot isn't bad at all. There'll be customers coming over real soon." Lin Fan refused to follow this Fraud Tian and become a fortune teller. If he did, he would be the laughing stock of the town!

At this very moment, a sweet scent filled the air. Lin Fan took several whiffs of air. *What an amazing scent!* He turned his head, and what he saw made his heart skip a beat.

"One scallion pancake with ham and bacon, please." The beautiful lady had a clear and crisp voice that was soothing to the ears. She had sunglasses on and was dressed classily, in a black dress.

"Young lady, you sure have an eye for good food. This young boss is very skillful and makes excellent scallion pancakes. Why don't you let me read your fortune for you? When I'm done, the scallion pancakes should be ready as well." Fraud Tian said with a big smile on his face, exposing a row of yellow teeth.

The beautiful lady giggled, "I've tasted these before. I'm in a rush and there's no queue here, so I'm just going to quickly buy one for my colleague. As for the fortune-telling, forget about it. I don't believe in fortunes."

The beautiful lady's words were laced with negativity. Lin Fan, who was busy making the pancakes, felt his face redden. He knew that his scallion pancakes were bad and customers would never return for a second time.

Diviner Tian lowered his head but burst out laughing a moment later. He was an old-timer and could clearly hear the meaning behind her words.

Suddenly, the magazine within Lin Fan's mind was flipped open. The rows and rows of words drifted about inside his mind.

Lin Fan shook his head. *I should* try preparing it this way.

Lin Fan had never tried this method before. He had no prior experience, but at that moment, everything felt natural to him, as if he had done it many times before.

"Wow! This method of cooking seems new. How interesting!" exclaimed the lady, as she watched Lin Fan.

Lin Fan did not know what to say, so he gave a little smile.

Halfway through, the lady had to make a call and walked away from the stall for a moment. As Lin Fan carried on, he felt as if he was getting better and better at it. Within a few minutes, a beautifully-made scallion pancake, which surprised even Lin Fan himself, was ready to serve.

"This was made by me?"

Lin Fan was in utter disbelief.

The outer layer was golden-brown and crispy. The inside was white and fluffy. The fragrance of the scallion and the dough was overwhelming and incredibly appetizing. Even Lin Fan was tempted to swallow the whole thing in one bite, but he resisted.

"Is it done?" The lady had finished her phone call and was rushing Lin Fan.

"It's done, it's done." Without hesitation, Lin Fan placed the pancake into a plastic bag and tied it up.

The beautiful lady walked over and handed \$7 over to Lin Fan. She took in a small whiff of air, "Where's this amazing smell coming from?"

Unfortunately, the lady didn't ask Lin Fan about the smell. She had tasted his scallion pancakes before and did not even consider that this incredible smell was coming from his scallion pancakes. She took the plastic bag and left, still without any idea of where the smell was coming from.

On the other hand, Lin Fan was still in shock. He knew that something weird had just happened.

Despite all this, Lin Fan's stall had no customers once again. Apart from that beautiful lady, no one else came to buy from him.

Chapter 3: It's Heaven on Earth!

Youth Arts Magazine Publishing Company.

Zhong Qing Yi held the bag of scallion pancakes and smiled. She bought it for her colleagues even though she was only out for a while. Zhong Qing Yi thought, "I shouldn't think of it as extra effort. I should treat this walk like a free mini workout!"

"Sigh, why isn't Qing Yi back yet? I'm starving," said Sister Meng as she laid motionlessly on the chair at her colorful work counter. She continuously licked her lips as she stared intently at the delicious food displayed on her computer. She was famished.

The action of licking one's lips is so seductive. If a male was around, he might have forcefully kissed her, savoring the taste of her lips.

Her delicate face was filled with sadness. It was as if she would starve to death if she remained like this for a few more minutes.

This was a magazine publishing firm for female high-fashion. The workers here were all youthful and beautiful.

"Han Han, you're such a glutton, what if you become a fatty?" said a pretty colleague. She was lying flat on her stomach on the partition between the work desks, with her abdomen raised in a seductive and sexy way.

"Ugh, I would rather eat till I die than starve to death. Why is Qing Yi so slow? Will she only return after I starve to death?" Huo Han lamented lethargically with a slight bitterness on her face. Even though she had eaten a slice of cake ten minutes ago, she was already hungry.

“Look, your saving grace is back,” said the pretty colleague who was lying on her stomach. Then, she pursed up her lips and said, “This glutton would have died if you came back any later.”

“I’m not a glutton... Miss Qing Yi, you’re finally back. If not, I would have really starved to death. Look at the bag of pancakes you’re holding, I love you so much,” Huo Han said as she snatched the bag from Qing Yi.

Just as Huo Han was about to open the bag, she turned to Qing Yi and asked, “Where did you buy this from?”

“At the entrance of the school opposite us. I bought them from the charming man you talked about before who sells hand-made pastries for a living even though he could easily be a model,” Qing Yi replied.

“Ah!” Huo Han exclaimed with a bittersweet expression on her face. “Why did you buy from him? Although I admire the young chap’s looks, I don’t really like the pastries he makes. There goes this bag of pancakes...”

“I noticed his business wasn’t very good and since you admire him so much, I thought I could do a good deed on your behalf by buying pancakes from him,” Qing Yi said as she flipped her hair. “If you don’t want them, just throw them away.”

Huo Han sulked and sighed helplessly, “Fine, fine, I’m famished. Even if it tastes like crap, I would still have to eat it. Otherwise, I’d really starve to death.”

“Babe, is there a chance that you might be the reincarnation of a hungry ghost?” Zhong Qing Yi smiled and asked as she walked towards the work desk.

“Hmph, I’m a beauty from the heavens and I came down to savor delicacies in the mortal world. When I’m done, I will fly back to the heavens,” Huo Han playfully said as she stuck out her tongue.

Everyone in the office laughed after they heard what Huo Han said. With such a mundane job, bickering seemed to be the only thing that could cheer them up.

Huo Han mumbled joyously to herself as she looked at the bag of handmade scallion pancakes.

“These look different. Perhaps he used an improved recipe? Now I’m excited to have one,” Huo Han said as she opened up the bag. Suddenly, the office was filled with the aroma of the pancakes.

It was an indescribable aroma. It was as if those people in the office who smelled it had found a delicacy which they had to try.

clattering noises

A series of chair-turning noises could be heard. All the beautiful ladies in the office stood up as they wiggled their noses, inhaling the aroma.

“Where is this aroma coming from?”

“Yeah it smells so good, I have never smelled something as good as this.”

“I’m suddenly so hungry and I feel like eating although I just ate a while ago.”

Just as the charming ladies were trying to locate the source of the aroma, Huo Han forcefully swallowed her saliva as she held onto the bag of pancakes. Her big and brilliant eyes filled with a strong desire.

The pancakes had a golden and crispy outer layer, with each paper-thin layer clearly defined. The aroma filled the air, making everyone crave intensely for them as if the pancakes were the only thing they ever wanted.

“The aroma is coming from this bag of pancakes,” Zhong Qing Yi said as she inhaled the aroma again. When she had been at another stall earlier, she had smelled the same aroma but she didn’t know where it came from. Now that she was smelling the same aroma, there could only be one possibility: it came from the bag of scallion pancakes.

Huo Han impatiently took a bite of the pancake. As she took her first bite, Huo Han had a look of astonishment on her face. Then, she stood up forcefully, as if she got hypnotized by it.

It was as if Huo Han’s soul was awoken by the waves of ecstasy from her first bite.
“Delicious. It’s just too delicious.”

At this moment, Huo Han had recovered from the moment of ecstasy; the magical feeling which tantalized her taste buds and left her speechless.

This was the best scallion pancake that she had ever tasted. Even those made by the finest chefs couldn’t compete with these.

“What do you guys want?” Huo Han asked as she involuntarily shielded the bag from her colleagues which surrounded her.

“Han Han, let us try the scallion pancakes please.”

...

“Yeah, the aroma is irresistible.”

“Yeah, my precious Han Han, just one bite please.”

...

The commotion continued.

“No, they’re mine. What do you guys want? Qing Yi, help! They want to snatch my food away.”

Huo Han didn’t want to share this bag of delicious scallion pancakes. She tried her best to protect them. However, even Qing Yi had joined the queue for a taste of them.

“Han Han, I bought them for you, let me have a bite please.”

Zhong Qing Yi was already attracted to the aroma and when she saw how badly Huo Han wanted to protect them, she wanted to taste them even more.

In an instant, Huo Han was drowning in a sea of beautiful ladies.

“Ah, it’s just too delicious. It feels like I’ve just tasted the best thing I have ever had.”

“Give me a bit more, just a bit.”

“There’s none left.”

“You bunch of ruthless b*tches, how could you forcefully snatch the scallion pancakes from me in broad daylight? Don’t you have a guilty conscience?” Huo Han cried out.

“Qing Yi, you said these were bought from the stall opposite, right?”

“Let’s go, what are we waiting for? How could we just buy only one bag of such delicious scallion pancakes?”

“I have decided to eat these scallion pancakes every single day for all of my meals!”

“Let’s charge towards the handsome chap!”

The army of ladies did not even think of consoling Huo Han. They immediately took the lift and charged towards the school.

“Wait for me...” Huo Han said as she was left alone in the office. She then rushed towards them for the school.

Chapter 4: Here Comes the Pretty Ladies

“What exactly is this?”

Lin Fan sat there in a daze. Every time he closed his eyes, he could feel the pressure of the heavy and thick magazine in his mind.

“Encyclopedia?”

Maybe the Alien God had seen him in such a miserable situation and rewarded him with a precious gift.

He had read a lot of novels before and this situation didn't scare him.

Lin Fan had to admit that his method of preparing the scallion pancakes had changed. The smell had improved but he didn't know how it would taste.

There was another important task at hand.

A small amount of reputation? But how small is considered a 'small amount'?

His brain wandered for a while before he recovered from his daze.

“Why are you stoning? You should get the most number of customers within this half hour, you can't possibly be thinking of just selling one pancake a day right?” Fraud Tian realized that this chap was acting weirder than usual. It was as if he had lost his soul.

“Ah!”

Lin Fan stared into space for a moment. He then looked at Fraud Tian and casually said, “It's okay, it's not the first time. I am experimenting. If I can get this right, it would be fantastic.”

Indeed, Lin Fan was studying the magical encyclopedia in his head. This contained both the evil and the good and if he was able to get both sides right, he would be destined for greater things.

bam!

At this moment, the middle-aged lady from the stall beside his slammed Lin Fan's stall counter. “You must change your stall location tomorrow,” she said with a disdainful and condescending tone.

“What is it? What makes you think you have a say in my stall's location?” Lin Fan said as he looked at her, feeling a little uncomfortable from the look in her eyes. He thought to himself, “She must be looking down on me.”

"You can't do sh*t in this location. You don't even have a customer. When my husband comes to sell fermented beancurd tomorrow, he'll take over your position," the middle-aged lady said. She thought Lin Fan was a quiet, young chap who was easy to bully. He had such a great location and everyone wanted to fight for it. This served as a great opportunity for her to take over it and chase him away.

"What does your husband selling fermented beancurd have to do with me? He doesn't have the right to just take over me. You think I'll leave just like that upon your request?" Lin Fan replied.

"Why are you so stubborn? You're so young, why must you take up this job? Can't you do something else? Your cooking isn't even that good. My son is younger than you and he's earning 4-5k just by working in a factory," the middle-aged lady replied with an air of pride and scorn.

"You old hag, are you trying to bully my people?"

At this moment, Fraud Tian rose and shouted. People around the area looked over to see what the commotion was about. The lady saw that this fraud had risen and a crowd had formed around them. Even so, she wasn't afraid as she said, "What has this got to do with you, fraud?"

"Who are you calling fraud? I, Tian, shall teach you a lesson. Watch what you say or it may cause someone to die." Fraud Tian mercilessly replied.

"Who do you think you're cursing?"

"Obviously I'm cursing you. If you're not happy, let's have a battle. I will make sure I thrash you." Tian replied, along with some hand gestures as if he could start a fight with her immediately.

"Where's he? Make me a scallion pancake."

The lady wanted to argue further but she saw that a customer had approached her stall. She stared fiercely at Lin Fan. Then, she hurried to her stall and said, "I'm coming, I'm coming."

"Can't you be a little firmer? This old hag thinks you're a pushover. You have to be like me. Stand firm!" Tian said to Lin Fan.

"Let me tell you, if this woman had really wanted to start a fight with me, I would have used my formidable skills against her. Do you believe me?"

"Yes, I do." Lin Fan said as he smiled and nodded. Although he bickered frequently with this Diviner Tian, they had a good relationship.

“That’s good. Now, where did these angels come from?” Diviner Tian said as he looked ahead and stared.

“Angels?” Lin Fan said with a confused look. He looked in the same direction and was shocked. It really was what Tian had said. A bunch of beautiful women. There were at least ten of them and all of them had impressive figures and pretty faces. The crowd that surrounded them were also stunned by the beauty of these women.

At this moment, one of the pretty women pointed towards Lin Fan.

“That’s him!”

“It’s that stall.”

The other women then rushed towards Lin Fan’s stall.

“I’m first!”

“No, I’m first, don’t fight with me over it.”

“I am the first customer of this handsome man.”

The surrounding crowd was dumbfounded. They could not understand what was going on.

They looked towards the direction the women were pointing at and saw a normal stall with a good-looking man. However, his looks were far from that of a model.

Could it be that these girls had a fetish for men that sell scallion pancakes?

At this moment, Diviner Tian forcefully grabbed Lin Fan’s hand and said, “What the hell did you do? These beautiful women seem to be charging towards you.”

“I…” Lin Fan didn’t know what to say.

If it was only one beautiful lady rushing towards him, Lin Fan would have been excited. However, there were at least ten of them charging towards him. He was frightened at the sight of them.

Lin Fan was afraid of his small figure being crushed by these women.

“Damn, I never knew you could attract so many girls. Looks like I chose the right place. If you can’t handle them, please remember that I’m always here to help.”

“It’s the first time I’m experiencing this.”

Fraud Tian was drooling at the sight of these beautiful women.

“I’m first, I’m first!”

A crowd of women had surrounded Lin Fan’s small booth. The woman who managed to reach first was literally jumping with joy. The people walking by would have thought that the group of women was insane.

“What are you guys doing?” Lin Fan said nervously at the sight of these beautiful ladies. The scent of their perfume made things worse for Lin Fan.

For a virgin like Lin Fan, this moment caused him to be extremely nervous and excited.

“Quick, give me 10 scallion pancakes!” The first woman exclaimed.

“What? 10?! You mean one right? There are so many of us behind you.”

“That’s right, Zi Yun, only one for you.”

“Fine then, give me a scallion pancake. I want all the toppings available.”

Lin Fan was still in a daze. He couldn’t recover in time and he still didn’t understand what was going on.

He refocused himself by looking at one of the women in the crowd.

“Could it be because of the bag of scallion pancake that I sold a while ago?” Lin Fan thought to himself.

“Handsome, give me one first. I’ll show you what I have later.” the first customer urged Lin Fan.

“Alright, I’m sorry for the delay, I’ll prepare it now.” Lin Fan was only thinking about the magical encyclopedia and the Godly scallion pancakes.

Could it really be what I’m thinking?

Fraud Tian saw what was happening and exclaimed, “Ladies, why not come here and let me carry out some free palm reading for you?”

What disappointed Tian was that these ladies did not even bother to look at him. *Perhaps I’m too old for this...*

The crowd of charming women attracted the attention of the people in the vicinity. Everyone was wondering what was going on.

The middle-aged lady beside Lin Fan saw the crowd and quickly shouted, "Ladies, it's crowded there. It's empty here and you can get your scallion pancakes faster."

"Ours taste better and have more toppings. His skills are incomparable to ours."

The owners of the surrounding stalls followed suit, hoping that they would be able to attract some of the customers but the ladies only cared about Lin Fan's stall.

One of the ladies said that the scallion pancakes made by Lin Fan tasted better than those made by them. All of them were left speechless.

"Wow, he handles the scallion pancakes so professionally as if it is a work of art. I can't wait!"

Lin Fan was brilliant at preparing the scallion pancakes. It was like a performance as he kneaded the dough into thin layers and cut them using a small knife. Everything was organized and kept in perfect shape

"There is a technique to making these scallion pancakes. First, you have to ensure that the dough is soft. Then, add a little bit of salt into the flour and sprinkle some water before you knead the dough," Lin Fan said to the ladies as he read the instructions from the first page of the encyclopedia in his mind.

"Oh, so there are actually such techniques you have to apply when making these scallion pancakes? I have to try it when I get back home. For the rest of my life, I only want to eat the scallion pancakes that you make." the lady said.

Lin Fan blushed awkwardly as he heard what the lady said.

"Ding! Encyclopedic Points +1 from explaining the scallion pancake preparation techniques."

Encyclopedic Points +1? What the heck is that?

Forget it, I should focus on making the pancakes first. I'll figure it out when I get back home.

Chapter 5: Is this a dream?

The first serving of scallion pancakes was done very quickly and the aroma of it whetted everyone's appetite.

"It's hot, be careful not to burn yourself."

Lin Fan had never tried one of his own scallion pancakes. And inside, he was a little curious, wondering if it was really that delicious. The pretty lady in front of him looked like she hadn't eaten in days.

She tore off a piece of scallion pancake.

The pretty lady took a bite of the pancake and the heat from the pancake caused her face to turn red and burnt her tongue. Despite this, she could not resist that delicious piece of scallion pancake.

"Wa, it's so delicious, I think I'm gonna cry!"

The pretty lady took another bite. Her eyes opened up and she felt like she was on cloud nine. She let out a sigh of enjoyment.

The people surrounding her couldn't help but drool. They urged Lin Fan, who was still in a daze.

"Hurry up and serve the next piece, I can't wait any longer."

"Zi Yun, go to the side and eat! Are you trying to tempt us by eating in front of us?"

"Yeah! I can't resist this beautiful aroma."

The person at the front of the queue was a girl named Zi Yun, she wasn't very tall, her figure was pretty good and she was considered pretty. Now that she had finally gotten to eat the scallion pancake, she was very satisfied inside.

"This is too delicious. What if I never get to eat this again? No, I have to slowly savor and enjoy this."

The surrounding people were dumbfounded. Her reaction was way too dramatic, wasn't this just a normal pancake? Did she really have to act like this?

"Madam, is this scallion pancake really that good? Are the two of you accomplices?" All the surrounding men asked.

"We are not accomplices, we are employees of Youth Arts Magazine and this pancake is really amazing. If you don't try it, you will regret it forever." Zi Yun slowly tasted her pancake after saying so.

Everyone knew about Youth Arts Magazine. Their office was in the office building at the other side of the road and it was filled with pretty ladies.

At this moment, the aroma diffused into the air and whetted everyone's appetite. They were all thinking the same thing. *Is that scallion pancake really that good?*

At the front of the middle-aged lady's stall, a man caught a whiff the of the aroma. It caused his nose to jitter.

"Alright, are you eating here or taking away?"

"It's okay, I want to go and try the other stall." The man paid the money but did not take the scallion pancake as he was drawn in by the aroma.

This smell was really too amazing.

"Hey, young man, young man..." The female owner was dumbfounded after seeing such a scene. This situation had never happened before.

She could not help but groan as she saw the people gathering around Lin Fan's stall.

Diviner Tian stared blankly at Lin Fan and thought to himself. *How lucky is this Lin Fan? The gods must definitely be looking after him. His business is booming, and he's suddenly making these delicious pancakes which he has never made before!*

"Wa, delicious. It's really too delicious."

"I am satisfied, this scallion pancake is really the best in the world!"

The ladies of the Youth Arts Magazine all felt extremely blessed to be able to taste something so delicious.

The people who were standing around started getting curious. The looks on the ladies' faces as they ate the scallion pancakes were irresistible and not to mention the aroma of the scallion pancake in the air. As more scallion pancakes were made, the fragrance intensified.

"Give me a piece, I must see how delicious it is."

"Standing so close to this beautiful aroma, it's impossible to resist."

"Sorry to trouble everyone, but can everyone queue up properly? Even a group of elderly men like you should still conduct yourselves properly."

Upon hearing the pretty lady speak, all the old men immediately behaved themselves as they queued up in an orderly fashion.

I'm going to be rich! Lin Fan thought gleefully as he made his pancakes.

Lin Fan couldn't resist the smell of the pancakes. However, he was too busy to afford the time to try them.

As time passed, the line in front of Lin Fan's store grew longer and longer. Despite never having tasted the scallion pancakes, people still queued up after smelling the aroma.

The people were stunned as they took bites of Lin Fan's scallion pancake.

It really was the most amazing taste in the world.

"How in the world was this scallion pancake made? It's really too delicious."

"Indeed. How have I never discovered this before? I walk past this area every single day and have never seen this before. If only I had discovered this earlier."

"My brothers, is it really that delicious? It is just a scallion pancake, do we really have to act like this?" A curious passer-by said as he was impressed after seeing an old man's joyous expression from eating the scallion pancake.

The old man looked at the passer-by and unwillingly pinched off a bit of the pancake.

"Try it...."

After trying the pancake, the passer-by's eyes lit up and without saying another word, queued up immediately.

"Give me 10 of them."

...

After a while.

"I'm sorry everybody, I am out of dough." Lin Fan had no idea how many scallion pancakes he had sold and at the same time, he had no idea that today's business would have been this good.

"What? It can't be. I've queued for 40 minutes already."

"Boo hoo...I just tried someone's scallion pancake and the taste left me speechless. Now you're telling me that there's no more. Are you trying to kill me?"

"Yes! Boss, you can't do this! How about you go back and get some more dough? We will all wait here. Otherwise, I won't be able to sleep tonight!"

Lin Fan blinked his eyes and was stunned for a moment, not knowing what to do.

Lin Fan just wanted to rush home immediately to figure out what was going on in his mind. He didn't want to be held up any longer.

"I'm very sorry, can you guys come back tomorrow? I do not have enough ingredients with me now and I need to go home to prepare them," Lin Fan apologized.

"Damn, looks like I'll just have to come back tomorrow."

"Boss, please bring more ingredients tomorrow. From now on, I'm going to eat this for breakfast every day."

"Me too."

After Lin Fan promised everyone that he would be more prepared tomorrow, everyone started to take their leave.

Those who had already eaten the scallion pancake and still continued to queue were disappointed at not having the chance to eat another one of those scallion pancakes.

Lin Fan thought Fraud Tian was still there, however, after turning around, he realized he had closed the store and left already.

As he thought further, he figured this fraud must have gone back to the bridge to scam other people by now and those pretty ladies from the Youth Arts Magazine must have gone back to their office already.

After he finished packing, Lin Fan pushed his cart away from the area and slowly made his way home.

Lin Fan was in a daze as he sat on his bedside, thinking about the events of the day.

Everything was so surreal. It was almost like a dream.